

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**Claims pending**

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13-17, and 21-23.
- After this Response: Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13-17, and 21-23.

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: 6, 11-12, and 18-20.

Amended claims: None.

New claims: None.

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. **(Currently Amended)** In a telecommunication system configured to provide a connection between a caller and a callee via an advanced intelligent network (AIN), wherein the AIN is configured to connect the caller and the callee, a method for blocking future calls from the caller to the callee, the method comprising:

- connecting a call from the caller to the callee;
- receiving a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from the caller to the callee;
- providing at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;
- receiving a second instruction from the callee;
- identifying a first telephone number associated with the caller;
- storing the first telephone number associated with the caller in a caller block table in a service data point (SDP); and

preventing, via a service switching point (SSP), one or more phone calls from the first telephone number from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee; and

playing a callee-selected message back to the caller when the caller attempts to call the callee.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein receiving the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from the callee; and
receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

3. (Original) The method as in claim 2, wherein the predetermined code includes at least one of the following:

one or more digits; and
one or more non-numeric symbols.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein identifying the first telephone number includes:

maintaining a record of the most recent telephone number that was a source of a call placed to the second telephone number immediately prior to receiving the callee's instruction to block future calls from the caller to the callee; and

consulting the record to identify the most recent telephone number as the first telephone number.

5. (Original) The method as in claim 2, wherein receiving the predetermined code includes:

receiving a first portion of the predetermined code;
prompting the callee to send a second portion of the predetermined code; and
receiving the second portion of the predetermined code.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) The method as in claim 5, further comprising prompting the callee to perform administration tasks.

8. (Original) The method as in claim 7, wherein prompting the callee includes prompting the callee to record a message to be played to the caller.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 7, wherein prompting the callee includes prompting the callee to select a pre-recorded message to be played to the caller when the caller is blocked from placing a call to the callee, and further comprising enabling the caller to record the message in the caller's own voice.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 1, further comprising one of charging a subscription fee to the callee and charging a pre-usage fee to the callee.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system, comprising:

a service switching point (SSP) in communication with a first telecommunications device associated with a callee and a second communications device associated with a caller wherein the SSP connects a call from the caller to the callee; and

a service control point (SCP) in communication with the SSP, the SCP having stored thereon instructions and data which, when executed, cause the telecommunications system to:

recognize a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from the caller to the callee;

provide at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

receive a second instruction from the callee;

identify a first telephone number associated with the caller; and

prevent one or more phone call from the first telephone number from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee; and

playing a callee-selected message back to the caller when the caller attempts to call the callee.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein recognizing the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from callee; and

receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 13, further comprising a database in communication with the SCP.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 13, further comprising an interactive voice response system in communication with the SCP and the SSP.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 13, further comprising a service creation computer in communication with the SCP.

18. **(Canceled).**

19. **(Canceled).**

20. **(Canceled).**

21. **(Currently Amended)** In a telecommunication system configured to provide a connection between a caller and a callee via a telephone network, wherein the telephone network is configured to connect the caller and the callee, a method for blocking future calls from the caller to the callee, the method comprising:

connecting a call from the caller to the callee;

receiving a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from the caller to the callee;

providing at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

receiving a second instruction from the callee;

enabling the user to manually identifying a first telephone number associated with the caller; and

preventing one or more phone calls from the first telephone number from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method as in claim 21, wherein receiving the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from the callee; and
receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method as in claim 21, wherein identifying the first telephone number includes:

maintaining a record of the most recent telephone number that was a source of a call placed to the second telephone number immediately prior to receiving the callee's instruction to block future calls from the caller to the callee; and

consulting the record to identify the most recent telephone number as the first telephone number.